

THE SOUTHERN PLANTER,

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.

Agriculture is the nursing mother of the Arts.—*Xenophon.*

Tillage and Pasturage are the two breasts of the State.—*Sully.*

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P. D. BERNARD,

PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

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EDITOR.

✉ All Communications, concerning the Planter, must be addressed

P. D. BERNARD, *Richmond, Va.*

✉ For Terms see last page.

TURNIPS.

The introduction of the turnip among the cultivated crops, constitutes an era in the art of husbandry. Of the several varieties which are cultivated, we may select three as most worthy of attention—the yellow, white, and Swedish, or ruta бага turnips.

1. *Ruta Baga*, or Swedish turnip, is the most important of these varieties, and yields the largest quantity of vegetable matter for the use of farm stock. It should be remarked, also, that there are varieties of this root. The best have a yellowish look, globular form, and have no neck or stem. The green and yellow kinds often prove abortive. The seed should be black and full. One pound will suffice for an acre of land. One-half a pound will produce plants enough for an acre; but as the seed is liable to fail, a pound is not too much to ensure a crop.

The time for sowing is from the 20th of June to the 5th of July.

The soil best adapted to turnips is a light, dry and friable loam; or almost any dry soil with the exception of heavy clays.

The soil is best prepared by throwing it into drills eight (?) feet [3 feet—Ed.] apart, filling the drills with short manure or compost, and after covering it with a

plough, two furrows on each side, sow with a drill harrow. The ruta бага flourishes best on a clover ley, and may be sowed after the first crop of clover is taken. If long manure is applied, it should be covered with a plough. If rotted, it should be placed under the seed, so that the roots will penetrate it. The plants generally make their appearance in eight or ten days after sowing; they should then be horse-hoed with the cultivator, and the soil should be removed as near to the plants as possible, in order to destroy the weeds. The hoe should then be employed, and the plants thinned to a distance of eight or ten inches.

The quality of this crop depends upon the size; and what is rather remarkable, the larger they are, the more nutriment they possess in proportion to their weight.

The value of this crop is variously estimated by different farmers. The products are, upon an average, six hundred bushels per acre, some estimate the nett profit at eighty dollars per acre; but their value will vary in different places and seasons. There is no doubt but that it is one of the most valuable crops raised by the farmer, although they are much less esteemed than they formerly were.

This root is excellent for all kinds of farm stock. They are said to be useful for fattening hogs, cattle and sheep. They may be fed raw, sliced, and a small quantity of salt sprinkled over them.

2. The *White* turnip requires a similar soil and treatment; but may be sowed as late as the 25th of July. They are not so productive as the preceding, but are excellent for a second crop, or for feeding cattle in the fall; by which course, light soils may be improved.

3. The *Yellow* varieties may be sown about the 15th of July, and are richer than the white. Sinclair estimates the

St. Michael

amount of nourishment in 64 drachms as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| White tankard, | 76 grains. |
| Common white loaf, | 80 grains. |
| Norfolk white, | 73 grains. |
| Store or garden, | 85 grains. |
| Ruta бага, | 110 grains. |

The following table gives the nutritive properties of several varieties—the green-top yellows being taken as a standard:

| Species and varieties. | Should weigh by size and standard. | Actual weight. |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| | lbs. oz. | lbs. oz. |
| Green-top yellow, | 16.00 | 15.00 |
| Swedish or ruta бага, | 11.2 | 13.12 |
| Red-top yellow, | 12.00 | 12.10 |
| Dalis hybrid, | 13.12 | 12.00 |
| White globe, | 20.8 | 15.8 |
| Red-top white, | 16.8 | 13.00 |
| Green-top white, | 8.7 | 8.8 |
| White tankard, | 16. | 14. |
| Purple do. | 12.10 | 11.8 |

This table shows the superiority of the ruta бага, over all the other varieties. It yields about six or seven per cent. of its whole weight of nutritive matter, while the white varieties afford four per cent., and in the largest roots only three and a half per cent. of their whole weight; hence one acre of the Swedish variety, is equal to one and a half acres of the white. "No person," says Lord Kaimes, "ever deserved better of his country, than he who first cultivated turnips in a field. No plant contributes more to fertility."

It appears from the investigations thus far made, that roots are by far the most profitable crops cultivated by the farmer; and that their more general introduction would both increase the value of the soil, and the quantity of productions from the farm, from the dairy, and from farm stock. *Gray's Scientific and Practical Agriculture.*

For the Southern Planter.

SHEEP RAISING IN AMHERST.

I am exceedingly glad to see that Mr. Drummond and a gentleman from Lynchburg are about to try the rearing of sheep upon the mountains of Amherst. If pro-

per attention is paid, I have no doubt that they will succeed well. I brought with me from Clarke county, upwards of thirty of the most approved kind of sheep. If Mr. Drummond or any one in the county wishes to cross from my sheep, I shall be happy to accommodate them. I have been informed, by good authority, that a Mr. Patterson and one or two other Pennsylvanians are about to settle in this county with the view of raising fine wool sheep. He at this time resides in the western part of Pennsylvania; he states that his wool commands seventy-five cents per pound in the Northern market; I have generally obtained from twenty-five to thirty cents per pound, in the dirt, while the common wool of this part of the country will only bring from eighteen to twenty-five cents. This only shows that we do not pay that attention to stock in Virginia that we should do. If half the labor and attention was paid in Virginia to grass and stock that is now bestowed upon that noxious weed, tobacco, would not Old Virginia rival any other State in the Union?

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

ISAAC IRVINE HITE.

Glen Ambler, near Amherst C. H., Va.

FRUIT TREES.

From an article in the Tennessee Agriculturist upon the diseases of fruit trees we make the following extract:

The Canker.—This is sometimes called the *bitter rot*. It is ascribed to various causes. By some it is considered as arising from neglected culture—poorness or wetness of soil, or exposed situation. But the most probable, or the *immediate* cause, appears to be injudicious pruning and bruises. Decay generally commences at the wounds thus caused, and extends till the tree dies. To prevent it, never prune in spring while the sap is in active motion, and protect all wounds of much size from air and moisture by a coat of paint, or of tar and brick dust. The only way to cure trees already diseased, is to cut

Sp. Drummond

away all affected parts and apply a suitable covering to the wound. It rarely proves a serious evil in this country.

The American Blight (so called) is caused by the *Aphis lanata*, a small insect so thickly covered with fine white hair as to appear enveloped in fine cotton. It is furnished with a small bristle-like beak, with which it perforates the bark of the branches. Excrescences arise, the limb grows sickly and perishes. Branch after branch is assailed in turn, and the whole tree ultimately dies. It is easily destroyed on young trees, and older ones if recently attacked, by brushing over the affected parts a mixture of equal parts of fish oil and rosin melted together and applied warm. The operation should be performed as early in the season as possible, or when the insect is first perceived.* In England, many trees have been greatly injured, and some destroyed by it. Although introduced into nurseries in this country, it has hitherto proved of little injury, and if carefully watched probably be kept from spreading.

The Canker Worm, where it has appeared, is perhaps the most destructive to apple trees of any insect in America, but it has hitherto been confined in its ravages to certain parts of the country, particularly of New England. Its habits are thus described by Kendrick:

"The canker worm, after it has finished its work of destruction in spring, descends to the earth, which it enters to the depth of from one to five inches. After the first frosts of October, or from the 15th or 20th, those nearest the surface usually begin to rise, transformed to grubs or millers. They usually rise in the night, and invariably direct their course to the tree, which they ascend, and deposit their eggs on the branches, which are hatched in April or May. They frequently rise during moderate weather in winter, when the ground is not frozen, and in March, and till towards the end of May. When the ground in spring has been bound by a long continuance of frost, and a thaw suddenly

takes place they are said sometimes to ascend in incredible numbers."

They destroy all the leaves of the tree and thus eventually cause its death. The only effectual remedy yet devised is to prevent their ascent, which is effected by means of circular lead troughs filled with fish oil, encircling the tree.

J. J. T.

From the American Agriculturist.

CORN FOR SOILING AND FODDER.

I had read several accounts of Indian corn sown broadcast for soiling and curing for hay, and I determined to try it. My experiment made last year was conclusive as to the great quantity which can be made on an acre, and as to its value when cured for winter food for cows and horses. None of it was fed in the green state, as I had sufficient pasturage for my stock during the summer and fall months, and therefore, I can say nothing about it for soiling from my experience; but I presume that whatever grass makes good hay will answer well for that purpose. There is no other vegetable which will yield so large and nutritive a quantity of dry fodder to the acre. It will produce from five to seven tons to the acre of dry food, if the ground is rich and well prepared.* The only difficulty is in curing it if the weather should be wet when it is cut, or in cutting it too green.

The ground should be well ploughed and thoroughly pulverized with the harrow, and two and a half bushels of seed sown to the acre immediately after the last ploughing and harrowing, to get the start of weeds and grass. If the seeds were soaked, so as to come up very quickly, it would be advantageous. Plough in the seed with small ploughs or cultivators, so as to cover them shallow, and roll the ground. The proper time for sowing here, is between the 25th of April and

* We think this a low estimate, and that from 7 to 10 tons per acre, on rich and highly manured land, would be nearer the mark. Some assert that they have grown 15 tons of dried fodder or more per acre.—*Ed. Agricult.*

* If applied early, lime whitewash will destroy it effectually.

the 5th of May. Poor land will not do for this crop. It should not be cut before the leaves begin to dry, for it is so succulent that if cut too soon, it will mould in curing. After it is cut, let it lie on the ground if the weather be dry, for several days, and if it can be turned once or twice, so much the better; then tie it in sheaves like oats, and put the sheaves in small shocks as open as possible at the bottom, that the lower part of the stalks may dry thoroughly. The dry leaves toward the top will absorb the moisture from the upper part of the stalks. When sufficiently dry; put it under cover or stack it like oats or wheat.

Persons on small farms, who raise only small quantities of Indian corn, and therefore have but little stock fodder from their corn fields, will find that a few acres of corn sown broadcast will supply them with an ample amount of long food.—Here in the West, where so much corn is raised to be converted into hogs, horses, mules and cattle, the supply of winter fodder from the corn fields is generally sufficient. But to the North and East, where less corn is raised, and the winters are longer and colder, there is no crop, I believe, which will supply the necessities of horses and cattle better, or with less labor. I have, therefore, given you my testimony in its favor; and as I am anxious that the farmers to the East, and especially in Virginia, should try it, should you publish this in your excellent paper, please to send the number which may contain it to Mr. Botts, Editor of the Southern Planter, with my request to urge it upon the farmers in that State to give it a fair trial.

I venture to predict that as an auxiliary to the small farmers on impoverished lands, it will in many instances prevent the necessity of emigrating from their much-loved native land—a matter of so much pain always, and not unfrequently of sore disappointment. Our crops of oats, corn and hemp, in Kentucky, are good generally, fully reaching an average. The wheat very indifferent, I should think not more than half a crop of light grain.—The *rust* is the wheat destroyer of this

country. How are we to avoid it? He who shall teach us will be our great benefactor, and entitled to our warmest gratitude. If we could get some variety that would ripen before the access of warm wet weather, say the last of May or first of June, perhaps we might escape the rust. Is there any such variety?

JOHN LEWIS.

Llangollen, Ky., Sept. 4, 1844.

For the Southern Planter.

VIRGINIA AND HER PROSPECTS.

Mr. Editor,—I have just received and read the January number of the Southern Planter, and find it, as usual, replete in matter, interesting and instructive to the farmer. I always hail its arrival with pleasure, and deem it the best agricultural periodical with which I am acquainted. Ought not the farmer who is able and yet refuses to encourage a paper devoted to his interest, be discountenanced by the farming community? I was very much pleased with the Editor's article on "Virginia and her prospects." "Them's my sentiments," and should be the sentiments and practice, too, of every farmer in our State, if we would again see her restored to what she has been, or rather to what she ought to be. Remodel the habits and opinions of our people, and you confer a greater benefit on Virginia, than the legislator or philosopher can dare hope to do. But it is not my intention to write an essay, not being affected with *cacoethes scribendi*, nor qualified to instruct my brother farmers with the pen—the hoe and plough better fitting my hand. My object was only to state, that having read in the Southern Planter, sometime last spring, an article, stating that a solution of saltpetre was an *infallible* remedy for the cut worm, I prepared nearly all my corn as directed, but to my surprise the cut worm, ignorant alike of the publication which directed my efforts, and the vermifuge properties of saltpetre, ravaged with impunity a portion of my crop, and scarcely left a stock standing; nor was

mine a solitary instance of the failure of the experiment, but in a conversation with several others, who had been induced by the same article to give it a trial, I learned that they as signally failed. Why did not the worm prey on all my corn? Was the solution not as well prepared on this as the other? My corn was soaked in the solution from forty-eight hours to five or six days, (the weather being cool,) being a longer time than directed. I account for the escape of my other corn in the fact, that the land had been early ploughed and subjected to the winter frosts, while the portion infested with the grub was fallowed but a short time previous to planting. I have observed during the few years I have been farming, that early fallowing, so that the land can have the benefit of the winter, is generally a good preventive (though not an infallible one) for the cut worm.

As it is nearly time to plant corn, I have written this that others may not subject themselves to the expense and inconvenience of making use of saltpetre with reference to its vermifuge effects.—It would be well to hint to those that make and publish their experiments, that they had better give a more detailed and circumstantial account attending their operations; and then, instead of being forced to take their *ipse dixit*, and frequently have the mortification of seeing our hopes frustrated, we would have some data from which we could be enabled to draw our own conclusions, although it might sometimes happen that we should differ with them. We plain farmers need a good deal of plain teaching, and will not be affronted because it is not taken for granted that we know every thing.

Publish this, if you think fit; I have no vain wish to see my name in print.

Yours, &c. G.

March 13, 1847.

hour; pour into it a small quantity of isinglass and gum Arabic, dissolved together. This will cause all impurities to rise to the surface; skim it as it rises. Flavor according to taste.

All kinds of sugar, for candy, are boiled as above directed. When boiling loaf sugar, add a table-spoonful of rum or vinegar, to prevent its becoming too brittle whilst making.

You may make birds and such things, of loaf sugar, in this way. By pulling loaf sugar after it is boiled to candy, you may make it as white as snow.

Loaf sugar, when boiled, by pulling it very well, making it in small rolls, and twisting it a little, will make what is commonly termed little rock or snow.

Sugar, when boiled to candy, may be twisted, pulled, rolled, and cut in whatever forms you choose.

DO WRITE, AND WRITE ABOUT COMMON THINGS.

There is an entirely wrong idea prevalent among farmers about writing for agricultural papers. They think that they ought not to write unless they have something new, or surprising; some discovery, some phenomenon; and then that they must write a *great* article. But everyday matters,—how they plough their fields; how they keep them in good heart; how they manage each kind of crop; how they economise, how they blunder, how they lose; these things are so *common* that they are afraid to touch them. You are mistaken, gentlemen; these are the very subjects we want from your pens. These are the subjects that the bulk of our readers are interested in, and these are the subjects on which you are best informed. Do not be too ambitious, and wish to do something on paper that nobody else ever did; for the probabilities are, that nobody will ever want to have you do it again. Why, cheese is to be made yet to the world's end, and butter, and pork and beef; men have yet to plant corn and sow wheat, and on all sorts of soils, and under all sorts of difficulties.

TO CLARIFY SUGAR FOR CANDIES.

To every pound of sugar, put a large cup of water, and put it in a brass or copper kettle, over a slow fire, for half an

Flies will never be done teasing; moths will not be persuaded away, grubs and worms of every name will crawl and have a living out of men's crops; cows will calve, and until the sun goes down for the last time, the calf will resemble the parents; orchards are yet to be planted, fruit to be plucked, to be saved, green or dry, for winter's use. To the end of time, there will be men born who will have to learn how to manage clay soils, and sand soils, and rocky soils; there will be large farms and little farms, and fences around them, and houses on them, and families in *them*, and housewives will have to cook what men like to eat; there will be clothes to make, and to wear out. Why, what on earth do you suppose men want you to write upon but these very subjects—these plain, practical, every-day matters about household, barnhold and farmhold affairs? But you reply, every body knows these things. I beg your pardon, every body don't know about them. For mercy's sake, just come with me to the next plantation to your own! Did you ever go there without seeing and thinking of two things. 1st. I could *tell* that man something about his management, if he would not get angry. 2d. And the other thing is, "well, *there* is something I'll remember and improve on."

There is not a farmer on earth, no matter if his farm is in Hardscrabble itself, but may teach you something. If he is a good farmer he will imitate something; if a bad one, you will avoid some practice, which never before seemed so exceptionable. You cannot go to any neighbor's without finding a variety of practice, arising from good reasons or bad. *You talk about these things.* These very things which you say are too common to put on paper are the very things which you discuss among yourselves whenever any gathering in your neighborhood brings you together. Don't be ashamed of common things. If some men hunted as they wish to write, they would not take a common fowling-piece to kill a squirrel, but would harness up a span of horses and drag a twelve-pounder about through the woods, load her up, touch her off, and be

tickled enough, if it made a thundering noise, no matter whether it hit a tree, the ground, or a squirrel. Gentlemen, our little paper could not stand many twelve-pounders. Pray give us a plenty of musket shots, and such like, and leave all your thunders for election days and stump speeches.

Why, my sturdy old friend, who grumbles because farming papers are not practical enough, are you going to turn Egyptian? Do you mean we shall make brick without straw? Why, *your experience*, and your neighbor's, and his neighbor's, and everybody's neighbor's experience. An editor is a mere house-carpenter; he saws, and planes, and fits together the materials for a house, but you must put the *materials* into his hand; he lives in a sort of saw-mill; you bring the logs and he saws them up. Friends and neighbors, if you will haul your logs, our saw is all ready for work.—*Western Planter and Gardener.*

FENCING.

Fencing forms an important and a troublesome item in the expenses and the labor of every farmer. Even among ourselves, where wood may be obtained for so little, the expense of procuring the materials and the time taken up in putting them together forms a heavy out-go from every farmer's purse. Every device which may render this less, is worthy of notice at least. We published in our last number the letter of a correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer*, who seems to be much pleased with a fence of iron wire, and we find that such fences are becoming quite common in England and Scotland. Factories are in operation in Edinburgh and Glasgow for making the wire, &c., most proper for this species of barrier. Messrs. Young, the manufacturers, have published a pamphlet, with descriptions of various kinds of gates and fences and their cost. The following are extracts:

Iron and wire fence 3 feet 6 inches high, having wrought iron straining posts 1½ inch square, every 75 yards, complete with

screwed eye-bolts and nuts for straining the wires, and wrought iron intermediate uprights, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ iron, every 8 feet, having 6 horizontal wires:

For horses, cattle and sheep, of No. 4 wire, 1s. 2d. per lineal yard.

For cattle and sheep, No. 5 wire, 1s. 1d. per lineal yard.

For cattle and sheep, No. 6 wire, 1s. per lineal yard.

For sheep No. 7 wire, 11d. per lineal yard.

For sheep, No. 8 wire, 10d. per lineal yard.

Same fences for wood uprights, 6 horizontal wires, including staples:

For cattle and horses, of No. 4 wire, 7d. per lineal yard.

For cattle and sheep, No. 5 wire, 6d. per lineal yard.

For cattle and sheep, No. 6 wire, 5d. per lineal yard.

For sheep, No. 7 wire, 4d. per lineal yard.

If to include one wrought iron straining pillar for every 75 yards, complete with screwed eye-bolts, and nuts for straining the wires, 1d. per yard extra. These are the prices of materials "delivered free at Leith, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Hull"—printed instructions, illustrated by wood cuts, accompanying each order, by which any laborer can readily erect the fences.

According to the above prices, a fence designed for cattle and sheep, three and a half feet high, with six horizontal wires, would cost, if of No. 5 wire, about \$1 50 per rod; if of No. 6 wire, about \$1 25 per rod. Or the wires for the same kind of fence, for wood uprights or posts, including staples for fastening the wires, about 67 cents per rod, if of No. 5 wire, and about 55 cents per rod, if of No. 6 wire. It may be as well to remark here, that No. 4 wire is a fourth of an inch in diameter, No. 8, three-sixteenths, and the other numbers regularly intermediate.—What would be the cost of importing these fences we are unable to say; but could they not be manufactured at as low a cost in this country, expense of transportation, duties, &c., considered, as they could be imported? If such fences could

be erected here at the prices above named, they would not be more expensive in their first cost than the fences usually constructed in many sections, while their permanence and indestructibility would give them a decided advantage.

If any friend of the "Planter" has had experience of these wire fences and can give us any information upon the subject, we will be much obliged to him. We are particularly desirous of ascertaining the comparative cost of iron with wood fences in Virginia, how far apart the posts should be placed, the mode of stretching the wire, against what kind of stock such a fence is available, &c.

THE CARROT.

We would thus seasonably call the attention of farmers to the advantages of the carrot crop. Whether the potato will continue to be affected with the malady which has attacked it for a few years past, is more than any one can tell. But it is best, in the language of the homely proverb, "to provide for the worst, though we hope for the best;" and on soils which are sufficiently friable, we should decidedly prefer the carrot, to grow as a substitute for the potato in feeding animals, to any other vegetable. It is true the carrot has not been altogether exempt from the blight and tendency to premature decay with which several species of plants have been lately attacked; but so far as our observation has gone, the white or Belgian carrot is the only variety which has suffered to such an extent as to occasion much loss. This kind has been supposed to yield more than the orange, and other kinds, with less labor in cultivation, and we think this is the fact, where the crop remains perfectly healthy; but the white is acknowledged to be less nutritive than the others; so that with the liability to disease, and the inferior quality of the white, we should unhesitatingly recommend the orange variety.

Carrots are known to be excellent food for milch cows, and also for horses. We have formerly been in the habit of using

them for the former purpose, and decidedly prefer them for making rich milk and high colored and well flavored butter, to any other food we ever used in the winter season. For horses, we know the opinion of those who have used them is highly favorable. Mr. Risley, of Chautauque county, raises annually great quantities of carrots, and has been the most successful competitor for premiums on this crop, of any man in the State. He has, in several instances, produced more than 1,000 bushels to the acre. We are informed that he feeds them largely to his horses. We have been lately told by a man who has been some time in his employ, that the horses fed on carrots are more healthy and active than when fed with anything else. In his own language, the carrots will "make an old horse appear like a colt." He stated that they usually gave from a peck to a half a bushel of carrots to each horse daily, with about half the quantity of grain which is given where no carrots are allowed. Horses which have been kept on grain in the ordinary way, when put on their allowance of carrots, it is said, very quickly improve in spirit, and in the appearance of their coats; and if the labor they are required to perform is not very hard, it is preferred to give them only the allowance of carrots, with but little grain.—*Cultivator*.

For the Southern Planter.

CURE FOR THE BITE OF A SNAKE.

Take the root of the cockle bur (which is an oblong bur frequently found in low, swampy, or in very rich ground,) boil in new milk, and drink freely. This is a certain cure, as stated by a lady of high standing in Lynchburg. There is a weed to be found in most parts of Virginia, known as the *master poison*, the root of which is said to be equally as sure a cure as the above. As the most of Virginia is infested with snakes of the most venomous kind, I think such recipes should be in the hands of every one.

AN AMHERST SUBSCRIBER.

Amherst C. H., Va.

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.

A letter from a highly respectable house in New York to a commercial house in this city, says: "The preference is now altogether for yellow corn, though but a few months back white was preferred.—Meal from white corn is now also difficult of sale."

Yellow corn, we understand, can be readily sold for four or five cents per bushel more than white in the New York market. The farmers will perceive the importance, in planting their next crop, of having reference to a fact likely so seriously to affect their interests—for, even if the next European harvests should be abundant, it is not to be doubted that the demand for corn will continue to be large for twelve or eighteen months to come. Having become familiarized, indeed, to its use, we may anticipate that it will continue, even after the necessity in which its exportation originates shall have ceased to exist, to constitute no inconsiderable portion of the food of the people of Great Britain.

Richmond Whig.

FIRE-WOOD.

We have been burning, for the last month, green black and white oak wood, cut from small trees. Our students find on analysis that 100 lbs. of this wood contain $35\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of water, and less than one pound of ash. We demonstrated in an article published in the last Farmer, that 1000 degrees of heat are taken up, in converting water into steam which occupies a space 1,696 times larger than that filled by the water. Although the quantity of latent heat contained in a cord of green wood is not increased by seasoning, and hence the latter can evolve no more sensible heat than the former; still, in burning green wood, or wet wood, it is almost impossible to avoid the loss of one-fourth of the heat generated, in combination with water, in *steam* and *vapor*. Most of the heat rendered latent in these gaseous bodies passes up chimney, where they are condensed, and give out their heat to warm all out doors.

We are anxious to give the most unscientific reader a clear idea of this subject, for it is really one of great practical importance. Look at it, then, in this light: You have divided your 100 lbs. of green oak, beech, or maple wood, into 65 lbs. of dry combustible matter, and 35 lbs. of cold water. Every pound of this water you evaporate in green wood, and *throw the heat away* by the consumption of a part of your 65 lbs. of fuel, and then take the heat evolved by the balance of your fuel to warm your room. How many ounces of perfectly dry wood are required to transform a pound of water into steam, we can not at this moment say; nor can we determine what portion of the heat taken up by steam in the combustion of green wood is again evolved by condensing in the room where the fire is made. We believe, however, that the usual loss is about equal to one-third of all the heat contained in 65 lbs. of kiln dried wood; and that the gain in seasoning wood under cover is at least 25 per cent.

Winter is a good time to cut, and get up a year's stock of firewood. Farmers at this season have less other work to perform, and wood is easier loaded and drawn when there is good sleighing, than in summer. But remember one thing:—Don't attempt to warm all creation, by working hard to chop and haul firewood, and at the same time leave your dwelling so open that the cold wind will rush in on all sides. By all means, make your house comfortable. Bank it up, and have all its walls tight, and good non-conductors of heat. While taking good care of those in-doors that can *talk*, and tell their wants, never forget the *dumb* brutes in your barn yard and stables. "The merciful man is merciful to his beast."—*Tenn. Farmer*.

BOSTON BAKED BEANS.

The Massachusetts Ploughman gives the following recipe for cooking this far famed Yankee dish. We can vouch for its excellence. Take two quarts of middling sized white beans, three pounds of

salt pork, and one spoonful of molasses. Pick the beans over carefully, wash and turn about a gallon of soft water to them in a pot; let them soak in it lukewarm over night; set them in the morning where they will boil till the skin is very tender and about to break, adding a tea-spoonful of saleratus. Take them up dry, put them in your dish, stir in the molasses, gash the pork, and put it down in the dish, so as to have the beans cover all but the upper surface; turn in cold water till the top is just covered; bake and let the beans remain in the oven all night.

Beans are good prepared as for baking, made a little thinner, and then boiled several hours with the pork.

For the Southern Planter.

MUSTARD.

If there is any one in Virginia who has experimented in the cultivation of mustard, I should like to know through the columns of the Planter, what was his success.

A FARMER.

March 1, 1847.

From the Germantown Telegraph.

SALT AND ASHES FOR STOCK.

Some years since I saw it recommended in an agricultural paper to mix salt with ashes for stock. Having tested the utility of the practice, I am now prepared to speak favorably of it, and from a firm conviction that stock, of all descriptions, are essentially benefited thereby. My cows, work horses, and young cattle, as well as sheep have been regularly supplied with it as often as once a week, for two years, and notwithstanding the feed in the pastures, during a part of the grazing period of both seasons, was quite short in consequence of the prevalence of severe drought, the stock generally has remained in excellent condition; much better, indeed, than I have seen them for years.

Sheep, especially, are extremely fond of it, preferring it to fine salt, and par-

taking of it with almost the same avidity with which, when hungry, they devour their meal or grain. As to the general efficacy of the practice, and its tendency as respects the health of the stock, I will merely say, in conclusion, that I am acquainted with several discriminating farmers who have made the same trial, and that in no instance with which I am familiar, or which has fallen under our direct personal observation, has it been attended with other than the best results. The proportions in which the ingredients should be given, are one part salt to seven of ashes. The salt should be fine, and the ashes dry and free from coals. If thought necessary, the salt may be increased in quantity, to two or even three quarts, instead of one. Try it, farmers, and see if it doth not "do good like a medicine."

In the season of pasturing I usually have several boxes or long troughs placed in a shed or out-building to which the animals can at all times have free access, and which I keep constantly supplied with a *quantum sufficit* of the mixture. This plan is necessary as an open exposure of the receptacles would subject the salt to injury in rainy weather.

AGRICOLA.

February 7, 1847.

BREADSTUFFS.

The capacity of the United States for supplying the wants of Great Britain with breadstuffs is shown by an estimate contained in a statistical article published in a New York paper. It makes the surplus of wheat and Indian corn to be—wheat, 3,000,000 bushels; flour, 3,500,000; Indian corn and meal, seventeen millions of bushels.

INTERESTING TO TOBACCO PLANTERS.

The Legislature of Maryland have passed resolutions requesting the President of the United States to use his best efforts in obtaining from foreign nations a reduction of the existing high duties im-

posed on the introduction of tobacco within their respective limits. In republishing these resolutions, the Union says:

"We are happy to state that the Legislature of Maryland have been anticipated in their wishes. The Secretary of State has devoted no little attention to the object which they would accomplish. In laying the following resolutions before its readers, the Baltimore Sun expresses the 'hope that they will be successful in effecting a satisfactory reduction of the enormous duties which are imposed on American tobacco in various parts of Europe.' This hope for a reduction in the duties referred to has long been a favorite one with ourselves; and although for a long time past it has seemed to be hoping against hope, we have faithfully clung to it. And now, as we feel most happy in informing the Baltimore editor, a gleam of sunshine has suddenly shot athwart the sky; our constancy is at length rewarded by what we hail as an earnest of better times for our friends, the tobacco planters.

"We refer to a treaty recently concluded with one of the States of Germany, the passage of which, through the Senate, gave rise to the newspaper rumor, circulated some weeks ago, respecting the 'Zoll-Verein Treaty.' We may be too sanguine; but we are confident that the treaty in question is destined to prove the opening of quite a new era for our tobacco trade. One thing, at least, is certain; when the proper time shall come for making it public, the country will see in it a most convincing and satisfactory proof, that if the belief expressed in the resolutions be well founded, and it be true 'that arrangements may be made, and negotiations had with foreign governments, by which the articles of tobacco may be more freely admitted, and with less duty than is at present imposed, if a proper and reasonable degree of solicitude is entertained and manifested by the Government in its diplomatic relations,' then may the early accomplishment of this great object be confidently counted upon. We hope to have an early opportunity of recurring to this deeply interesting subject.

Meanwhile, we assure the tobacco planters of the South and of the West, that the administration are anxiously bent on promoting their interests, by pressing the introduction of their staples into the ports of Europe on the most advantageous terms that can possibly be obtained."

For the Southern Planter.

SYSTEM OF VALLEY FARMING.

Mr. Editor,—As the system of farming generally recommended by the writers for your paper, is not exactly the one which we follow in the Valley of Virginia, I have thought it might not be amiss, or unacceptable to you to learn something of our mode of cultivation in this part of the State, and although I am, comparatively speaking, but a novice in the business, and have many neighbors who are abler and much better qualified, both as writers and farmers, than myself, to give you information on this subject, yet as I have looked in vain, in your paper, for some years past for something from them, I have determined, in default of a better, to give you my system and some of the results.

My plantation consists of about 550 acres, of which about 165 acres are in wood, the balance is divided into seven fifty acre fields, and a lot around my house of 35 acres for a timothy meadow, orchard, yard, garden, &c.

I cultivate every year one field (fifty acres) in corn, and three (150 acres) in small grain, principally wheat. I sow every year 100 acres in clover, and use plaster of Paris freely. Thus, you will perceive, that my fields are cultivated once in seven years in corn, three years in seven in small grain, and lie out, in clover, three years out of seven. Every fall I have one *two* year old clover field, and one *one* year old clover field to fallow for wheat, and the corn field of that year for wheat, or wheat and oats. The *one* year old fallow field, and the corn field are sowed in clover, the next spring, and the corn crop always succeeds the wheat on the

two year old clover field. I endeavor always to let one crop of clover fall on the land in seven years. I have followed this system as nearly as I could for the last five years, and think I can see an evident improvement in my land. At all events, the average of my crops has increased.

I work on my farm six good hands, men, (I have no women working out,) one of whom is my blacksmith and rough carpenter. At some seasons I hire additional labor, for instance, during harvest and while threshing wheat.

We can cultivate our land in this country with a smaller force of hands than you can in the lower part of the State, though we use more horses, and dispense entirely with the hoe. I plough up my corn land in the spring without bedding it—harrow it down, lay it off three and a half feet each way, with the shovel plough, harrow the corn in, and if I can give it three ploughings, with the large shovel plough, two of two furrows in a row, and one of three furrows in a row, in an ordinary season I can be pretty sure of a good crop, without having a hoe in the field.

I measured my corn the past year on forty five acres of my corn field, and housed 482 barrels, the balance I fed away without measuring. My crop of wheat was about 1,900 bushels, although our wheat in this county was much injured, both in quality and quantity, by the wet weather in June and July, mine only weighed 56 pounds to the bushel, and when the wheat in our county weighs under 58 to the bushel, the millers, here, double the deficit to sixty; that is I had to give 64 pounds for every bushel that weighed 56 instead of 60 pounds, as they purchase by weight, and not by the sample, as they do in Richmond—so that I lost one-fifteenth between the measure and the weight. The amount I have stated above was by weight. I will also state that I killed the past year seventy-five hogs, which averaged about one hundred and seventy-five pounds.

I have been induced to give you the above by a piece in your last number, headed "Communications;" and also en-

close you my subscription and arrears for the past, and have endeavored, as far as I was able, to fulfil the three duties which you seem to think devolve on every farmer.

Yours, very respectfully,

HUGH M. NELSON.

Clarke Co., March 13, 1847.

P. S.—I would state that I got \$1 05 per bushel for my wheat, that I sold about 8,000 pounds of pork, \$120 worth of mutton and wool, \$130 worth of beef and cows, and have about two hundred barrels of corn for sale of the last year's crop. I made also about four hundred bushels of oats

H. M. N.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

There is living in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, on the bank of the Lehigh, a very aged man, whose success in falling upon a system of rotation, by which he could obtain the greatest possible yield of wheat, in a given term of years, has caused it to be generally adopted in that fertile region. It is called Sheimer's system, after the discoverer, Jacob Sheimer, whom I had the curiosity to visit at his most substantial homestead some years ago, and from whom I obtained the following account:

When a young man with a large family of children growing up around him, and dependent on him for support, he plainly perceived that under the rude practice then existing, he would not be able to maintain them. He often thought over his difficulties while following the plough, and at length determined upon his plan; which followed up without faltering, has conducted him in the decline of life to ease and affluence.

When I saw him he had resigned the active duties of his farm to a son, who was following in his footsteps; after having himself practised his system of rotation for thirty-five years, with a constant improvement in the quality of his land; which indeed had the unmistakable stamp of fertility upon it.

The farm contained one hundred acres, which was divided as nearly as possible

into eight fields of twelve and a half acres; each of which was carried through an eight years' rotation.

Commencing with a fallow field, he

1st year. Manured and limed; ploughed three times, in May, June and August; harrowed and seeded one bushel and three pecks per acre of wheat, which was ploughed under.

2d. Clover seed sown on wheat in the spring, six quarts to the acre, which was pastured after harvest.

3d. Plastered clover in the spring, one bushel per acre; cut in June, and ploughed under second crop, and seeded again with wheat.

4th. Wheat—same as No. 2.

5th. Pastured early in the season, ploughed under second crop in August, and sowed wheat.

6th. Wheat again, and rye sowed on stubble.

7th. Sowed clover seed in spring on rye.

8th. Ploughed under clover sod and planted corn; and next season recommenced.

It will be observed that there were every year three fields in wheat, one with rye, one with corn, two with clover, and one fallow. The produce had one season reached as high as 1,400 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of corn, and 300 bushels of rye.—*Hon. Morris Longstreth's Address.*

From the Cultivator.

REMEDY FOR THE BLACK WEEVIL.

Editors Cultivator,—I see by the last number of the Cultivator, that Mr. Clark Rich, of Shoreham, Vermont, has been trying many experiments without success, to remove or destroy the black weevil, which is so destructive to grain, and so troublesome in mills, granaries, and barns.

They are likewise very destructive to rice. I will furnish the public, through the medium of your estimable publication, a remedy which has thus far stood the test of experience; hoping that you may deem it worthy of insertion. I have never failed after repeated experiments, for

many years; and have been frequently amused, particularly in witnessing its effects in a cask of rice, when it was almost destroyed by weevil.

It is wonderful to see with what expedition they will leave it when the remedy is applied.

The great advantage of this remedy over others, is, that it does not in the least degree injure the grain, and also, it is so simple and easy, that almost every person has it in his possession.

It is simply sassafras (*Lanous*) root, placed among the grain, and in places infested with them. I have never had the opportunity of putting it in a stack of grain at time of stacking, but have no doubt if it be well mixed with the grain, it would keep out many other kinds of insects that are so injurious.

It is a well known fact that no kind of insect likes the smell of sassafras.

The same root is useful about poultry houses, and I find that poultry in the habit of roosting on poles made of the tree, are not liable to get lousy.

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN H. KING.

Georgetown, D. C., Dec. 23, 1846.

For the Southern Planter.

THE POTATO.

Mr. Editor,—Many theories have been advanced, upon the subject of the deterioration* of this, almost necessary article of food—none of which appears to have met with general sanction. If the following ideas should be deemed worthy of further notice, they are at your service:

I have repeatedly noticed that where I have planted the potato one year, the following spring many *volunteers* have sprung up, and upon pulling up the vine, I have invariably found a good sound potato attached to the root. This suggested the idea, that *under the earth was the natural element* of this vegetable, and that it should

* By deterioration, I mean that loss of its original qualities, which it may be supposed renders it more liable to disease.

never be removed from it, except for immediate use, or replanting. And that the rot has been produced gradually by some peculiar action of the atmosphere, and perhaps light—to say nothing of the possible effect of throwing them into bulk, where they usually lay through the winter, subject of course to the various chemical changes to which all vegetable substances are liable, under like circumstances. That the potato loses much (probably little less than twenty-five per cent.) by being exposed to the atmosphere, may be easily proved by weighing a bushel when first taken from the ground, and subsequently at different times, after exposure. May not much of the properties essential to its purity be thus lost by *evaporation*, as well as by the changes which *take place in the heap*. I think so. "Every thing after its kind," is a scripture maxim—few would think of keeping a fish alive out of water, or a bird under it. Why, then, may it not be as essential to keep the potato in its *proper element*—but it is a vegetable! True! but do vegetables grow upon men's noses? Certainly not. Are not the laws which govern the vegetable as imperative as those which govern the animal kingdom?—These are facts which should not be lost sight of in our reasoning upon the subject. We know, from experience, that parsnips, carrots, cellery, the potato, artichoke, and other vegetables, are best preserved by letting them remain where grown until wanted for use. May not the same be said of the potato? There is another fact I have observed. I have never yet seen a *frosted* potato taken from the ground in the spring, after remaining covered through the winter by the earth in which it grew. This is an important fact, and one which I believe will hold good—the potato may *freeze*, but there appears to be a property in the earth which extracts the frost and leaves it as fresh as if it had never been touched by cold. This fact, I think, I have demonstrated, by experiment. Last year, in consequence of the season, neglect, or some other cause, my crop was very unpromising, so much so indeed, as to in-

duce me to decline digging at the usual time; the whole crop was left in the ground, except such as was taken up from time to time for immediate use. The result has been, that I have been eating throughout the winter, potatoes resembling more in appearance and flavor, "new potatoes," than any I have ever had before. A few days since, in ploughing my vineyard, in which they were planted, I turned out what remained, some of which I have exhibited in this place, and they have been universally pronounced "new potatoes," and inquiry made "if they were raised in a hot bed." They were firm, plump, and in every respect similar to a recently raised article. I consider this experiment worth a dozen theories. It is, however, due to truth to say, that they were not wholly exempt from rot, owing, doubtless, to influences operating previous to planting, which has caused the general deterioration. "In the beginning *all things* were created"—the potato amongst the rest—how has it preserved its distinctive properties from the creation up to the time of its "civilization," (which is comparatively of recent date,) by being taken from its *native element*? We have no evidence of the fact: has it undergone any essential changes by civilization? Doubtless it has. May not those changes, produced by mismanagement and a consequent loss of its *original properties*, be able to account for its present liability to disease? These are mere speculative questions, I know, and better calculated to amuse than instruct, but nevertheless, not wholly devoid of interest, and may lead to practical results of great benefit to society. *Verbum sat.*

DRUMALLIS.

Fredericksburg, April 1, 1847.

LEMON CANDY, OR ROCK CANDY.

To one pound of loaf sugar put a large cup of water, and set it over a slow fire for half an hour. Clear it with a little hot rum or vinegar. Take off the scum as it rises.

Try when it is done enough, by dipping

a spoon in it and raising it; if the threads thus formed snap like glass, it is done enough. Then pour it out into a tin pan; when nearly cold, mark it in narrow strips with a knife.

Before pouring it into the pans, chopped cocoanut, almonds, or picked hickory nuts, may be stirred into it. Brazil nuts, taken from the shells cut in slices, and added to it, are very good.—*Selected.*

TILLING AMONG YOUNG TREES.

A correspondent tells us that he could not readily procure any litter to place around the trunks of his young trees, and that as he has planted the field where he set them with corn and potatoes, he thought litter would be in his way in tilling.

We think there might be a quantity around each tree that would not interfere with the crop. But he should endeavor to keep his soil about his young trees as moist as possible whether he uses litter or not. Next to covering the earth with something to check evaporation and to keep the soil both moist and light, ploughing and stirring often through the summer will be found best. If you have the least doubt about the effect of ploughing and hoeing often, just try the plan, let the book farmers say what they will.

It is not very easy to explain why the frequent moving of the soil, and that to a considerable depth, should have an effect precisely the reverse of what is observed when we often move other materials and expose them to the air. Hay will dry twice as fast when we stir it and let the air in, as when we let it lie with once spreading over the ground. Litter of any kind, leaves, manures, will dry up fast in proportion to their exposure to the atmosphere.

But it is certain that all soils are so constituted that frequent stirring keeps them more moist than when they are allowed to lie still. We have known practical farmers to delay hoeing their corn in a dry time for fear they should render the soil more dry to the injury of the harvest.

They may have reasoned from what they had observed in regard to the stirring of other substances. Experiments on a very small scale will convince them that stirring the unswarded earth will not in a dry time, make it more dry.

If no litter has been placed about the trees, set this spring, keep the earth well tilled both for the sake of your trees and your harvest. When you plough among your trees you should always muffle the ends of the whiffle tree to prevent galling or tearing off the bark. It is almost impossible to avoid it without this precaution.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

ERRORS IN HORSE SHOEING.

In our last number we remarked upon the chief cause of unsoundness in a horse's foot, viz: bad shoeing. We wish to cull from Mr. Miles' book a few more practical observations upon the proper treatment of the hoof. But before we go farther, we will define more distinctly what we mean by unsoundness in the horse's foot. For some seem to think that if a horse does not *limp*, his feet must be sound. But in fact, a horse may have a diseased hoof and not limp at all. He may be lame and not palpably so. A horse limps because one foot alone is unsound and painful. If both are equally painful, when he rests his weight upon them he will endeavor to pass as quickly from one to the other as possible, and gain with ignorant people the reputation of a quick stepper. The truth is, that no horse whose foot is in a state of inflammation to such a degree that he is unwilling to throw upon it the whole of his weight can be considered sound. When both feet are inflamed he shows it by what is termed *pointing*. We will transcribe some of Mr. Miles' remarks on this topic:

The various degrees of "*pointing*," ranging between the occasional partial withholding of the weight from the heel without advancing the foot—perceptible only to the most practised eye,—and the habitual thrusting out of the whole leg to the front—palpable to every beholder,—are so many indications of pain in the

foot; the intensity of the pain being marked by the degree of pointing: and in spite of the determination to consider them as mere variations of a trick, they are unequivocal symptoms of unsound feet. The horse is far too wise an animal ever to inconvenience his whole frame, merely to gratify a particular trick; and I take it, his reason for pointing will be found, upon investigation, to have much more to do with a desire to relieve himself from pain than an inclination to indulge a caprice. The act of pointing calls upon him to withdraw half the support from half of the base on which his body stands, and that too at a part where it can least be spared,—where his head and neck overhang it, and tend to throw a great increase of weight very unevenly upon the remaining support; thus forcing him to equalize the pressure as soon as he can, by dividing it between the remaining support and leg of the opposite side behind. Experience has taught him that this is best effected by adjusting the balance, before the removal of the suffering foot from the ground; and we accordingly observe him commencing the process by withdrawing the support of the hind leg, and then, having arranged the balance to his mind, he raises the foot intended to be rested, and carrying it forward, deposits it at such a distance from the base as shall ensure to it perfect exemption from sustaining any of the weight. We can readily imagine that an animal formed to stand upon four legs, would find it an irksome business to support himself for any length of time upon two: and so in practice the horse finds it to be; for his muscles soon become weary of their increased work, and he is driven to seek relief from the new pain by a change of position, which again calls forth the old one,—and thus the poor beast is doomed to a perpetual alternation of painful sensations. His courage enables him to bear a great deal of pain without flinching, particularly when it increases upon him in the stealthy manner that usually marks the course of unsoundness in the feet.—There is, however, a point beyond which his endurance cannot be stretched, and

the progressive nature of unsoundness is sure in the end to find it out; and although he may contrive, by shortening his step and striking the ground less forcibly with his feet, to put off the discovery, and may continue to work on very unsound feet even for years, still he is at last compelled to yield. Sinking his head and neck at every step, to remove their weight from the foot at the moment it meets the ground, he declares by signs no longer to be mistaken that he is decidedly lame; and this, in all probability, is the first intimation which the master receives that anything is the matter with his horse's foot. He then, in his innocent astonishment, begins recalling to mind the events of the last few days, vainly hoping to find in them the cause of this unlooked-for calamity.

To preserve the hoof in a healthy state, it is not only necessary that the shoe be properly fitted and put on, but that the horse is sufficiently and regularly exercised. Very few horses get proper exercise. When not at work they are placed in a narrow stall, where they could have no freedom of motion, even if loose; and there they are chained in one position for days. Now Nature has attached this condition to the health of every organ of every animal, that its functions be regularly performed. Let any man either from an injury or other cause be forced to carry one arm in a sling for a week, and he will observe a most manifest difference between that and its fellow. The muscles will be diminished, the size decreased, and it will in every sense be a very bad match for the other. The natural process of absorption has been accelerated, while that of restoration has almost ceased, from the non-employment of the muscles. As it is with the man's limb, so it is with the elastic cushion beneath the horse's foot. If we will not allow him the power of expanding and contracting his foot, this cushion will shrink and grow hard; but if allowed the means of so doing it will retain its elasticity and usefulness to a good old age.

Look at a horse while grazing in the field. His feet are in a state of almost perpetual movement. Each foot undergoes a regular compression and expansion in turn according

as his weight is thrown upon it and withdrawn. Indeed, nature never intended that a horse should be long still, and when he has the power to move he very rarely will remain so. Every thing draws his attention; every sound, every footstep, cause him to move, and consequently exercises the mechanism of the hoof. The sound of the corn at feeding time causes fifty such healthy movements. But how different is the case of most horses. While kept standing in the stable they are treated worse than a wild beast in a menagerie. Cooped in a stall and chained to a post he has no power to move. He hears the same sounds; they attract him as much; he pricks up his ears, and bends his neck; but he can not move! he knows that he cannot turn, and therefore, does not try to do so, and his hoof is not exercised. And so horses are allowed to remain for days, unless their legs begin to swell. Now, to keep a horse in health he must have at the *least* two hours' exercise every day. Men who spare no expense in pampering their horses, and procuring for them every luxury, are most niggardly in their allowance of this first of necessities—regular exercise. They think that half an hour's trotting will suffice to keep their feet in health, and that a horse may be left chained up in a stall for several days, without any injury.

But the truth is, regular and long continued walking is absolutely essential to the health and sound condition of his feet. Those who deprive him of it to save themselves a little trouble are unworthy to own a horse, or to be entrusted with the care of that generous beast. It is impossible to preserve the elastic and nice machinery of the hoof from wasting and decay without it; and the want of it is the cause of far more groggy lameness than overworking. The life of a horse, as well as his usefulness while alive, is shortened by this absurd and improper confinement in stalls.—The natural life of a horse is from thirty-five to forty years; while we all know that most horses at twelve or fourteen are absolutely worthless, completely used up, with scarcely a foot to stand upon, as it is said.

To call attention to the inestimable benefit to the horse, of freedom of motion in the sta-

ble, and to the baneful effects of stalls is our present object. We urge the adoption in their stead of the loose box. It will be found one of the greatest preservatives of the life and usefulness of the horse which can be pitched upon—worth all the farriery in the universe. Mr. James Turner remarks: "I firmly believe that if every valuable horse in this country were to be forthwith turned into a large box, night and day, besides the continuance at his ordinary work, it would prove the worst event for veterinary surgeons that has ever happened in the horse world; because it would tend more to cut off our supply of groggy lameless and its attendants than any circumstance or single cause that has ever yet been published, or even named."

To give each horse in a stable a loose box to himself, will undoubtedly require more stable room, and consequent expense in building than the present method of stalls; but that expense will more than be repaid by the better health and lengthened life of every horse who is blessed with one. Those who have so little true knowledge of their own interests, and so little regard for the comfort of this noble animal as to be deterred by this obstacle, are unfit to own him. As for those who cannot afford the small expense of the required addition to their stables, they should never take upon themselves the care of a horse, unless necessity obliges them.

By taking down the partition between two stalls, walling up the open ends of them, and constructing a door sufficiently wide for the passage of the horse into the enclosure, you may have in the place of every two stalls in your stable a very good box into which you may turn your horse loose. The best partitions between these boxes is a brick wall, cased with boards, and surmounted by a railing. This partition should not be so high as to prevent observation, for horses are sociable animals, and are fond of company. It should be high enough, however, about the trough to prevent their watching one another at meals; for this is both unmannerly and injurious to health. Each hopes to get some of his neighbor's prog, and fears that he may get some of his; and so they bolt it down in a way which will produce dyspepsia both in man and beast.

WARMING LANDS.

Mr. Josiah Lovett, of Beverly, who has been remarkably successful in raising various kinds of vegetables, as has appeared from his superior exhibition at the Horticultural Rooms, in a late number of the *New England Farmer*, gives his mode of warming land, by which he gets vegetables almost as early as they are produced in the vicinity of Boston, though the season in Beverly is at least a week later, and Mr. Lovett's land is moist and low.

His method is, to plough or spade, or in working the land in any way, to do it *while the sun shines clear*, and, if possible, from 11 to 4 o'clock. By this means, the warm surface earth is turned under, the cold earth brought up and warmed, and buried in turn. This is repeated two or three times, on warm sunny days. Seeds planted on land thus warmed, a week or ten days later than on land ploughed or spaded but once, will mature their fruit earlier and of a superior size, with the same manuring and attention.

This system is founded on the true principles of philosophy, as will appear evident to every person of reflection, and we doubt not may be turned to a good practical account. The superior crop, from a more thorough pulverization of the soil, and mixing it well with manure, will amply compensate for the extra ploughing.

Boston Cultivator.

THE CORN AND WHEAT CROPS.

We can scarcely conceive the immense quantities of corn and wheat which are annually produced in the United States. The *Delta* says that the crops of the West for the year 1846 will be more than 500,000,000 of bushels of corn, and 140,000,000 of wheat. In the State of Ohio, alone, the quantity of corn raised, is estimated at 60,000,000 bushels. The *Cultivator* says, "The Ross County Agricultural Society have taken pains to ascertain, as near as possible, the amount of the principal productions raised on each farm in several townships of that county.

In the report recently made to the State Board of Agriculture, we find that in the township of Scioto, the aggregate of corn is 359,335 bushels from only sixty-six farms or estates. On one of these (Dr. Massie's) 50,000 bushels were produced! and on another, (Dr. Watt's,) 38,500 bushels! Another township, (Liberty,) in the same county, gives an aggregate of 93,704 bushels from seventy-five farms or estates. In both of these townships the average per acre is not over about fifty bushels. The population of Scioto township in 1840 was 1,379—of Liberty 1,256. There are seventeen townships in the county, and many such counties for the production of corn, in the central and southern valleys of Ohio. In the thinly settled county of Fayette, where most of the farms are devoted to grazing, and not a river county, the Agricultural Society, after extensive inquiry, report an estimate of the corn crop for the present year at 900,000 bushels!"

Our minds are bewildered and lost in the calculation of the quantity of food that the vast and almost illimitable extent of our yet uncultivated country may be made to produce.

From the Albany Cultivator.

AGRICULTURE AS AN OCCUPATION.

A sentiment has prevailed, and I fear yet prevails to an alarming extent, that the practical farmer occupies a place in society a grade lower than the professional man, the merchant, or than many other laborers. Many of our youth have imbibed this sentiment, and have been encouraged in it by the fond but injudicious parent. Thus, not a few who might otherwise have been useful members of society, have been thrown upon the world, mere pests to the community. I have certainly no antipathies to the learned professions, the mercantile business, or mechanical employments. These are all necessary and important; but I insist that agriculture is neither less important, nor less honorable, nor less useful.

The difficulty is not so much in the se-

veral *kinds* of business, as in the fact, that an *undue proportion* of our fellow-citizens are engaged in the former, to the neglect of the latter; and more than all, that the sentiment which I have suggested, prevents multitudes from engaging in either.

From my own observation, in a life of more than forty-five years, and looking back and following the history of my early associates, and from a somewhat extended acquaintance with the world, I am fully of the opinion that *that* sentiment is one of the most fruitful sources of idleness and crime, of any that can be named. And yet, what multitudes of young men and guardians act, or seem to act, under its influence.

I knew a man in my early boyhood, who had a *profession*, but very little else, (except a numerous family,) who was often heard to say, that *his* sons should never be farmers, let what would come. Those sons are now vagabonds, except one, who has already come to an untimely end. His daughters married *gentlemen*, and are both living in abject poverty.—This is only one among the multitude of cases which might be mentioned. Still, men will pursue the same path.

I know a farmer with two sons—smart, active lads, enjoying good health, who, not long since, *rented* his farm, that he and his boys might live easier. I was inclined to say to that father, take care, sir, that you train not those fine young fellows to idleness, dissipation and vice.

God made man an agriculturist, and while in a state of innocence, his first business was to till the ground. And in every age of the world, some of the greatest and the best men have been farmers. Job and Abraham were farmers; Washington and Jackson were farmers—as also a multitude of worthy names and noble spirits, who, like them, have blessed the world with examples of greatness and honorable deeds. And I rejoice to know that many in our own time, of highly cultivated intellect, and enlarged views, and worldly competence, are proud to be ranked among practical farmers.

Far better had it been for the world had

the number been tenfold greater. Far better were it for the present generation, if in the choice of an employment, parents and their sons would view the subject as these have done; and let those sons be directed in their choice to the same wise results. Thus, much of the idleness and crime which are exerting such a fearful influence upon us, would never have existed. Many of the temptations to vice would have been avoided.

I know a father, engaged in a profession, who has an only son, for whose interest he has ever felt the deepest solicitude. When that son was sixteen, like many lads of his age, he manifested a strong desire to engage as a clerk in a store. The father felt that agriculture was an *equally* honorable business—much safer, and more free from temptation; yet he did not wish absolutely to *compel* to a course averse to his own choice. He, therefore, engaged a place for him with a merchant of his acquaintance, to be occupied in a few months, on condition that the son should still persist in his determination. He then took the son alone, and informed him that he had procured such a place; at the same time pointing out, in a kind manner, the disadvantages of the mercantile business, and of agriculture. He told him that he was now of an age that he must choose for himself. That whichever way he should now decide, he would be aided as much as practicable—that *that* decision must be final—that he might reflect upon the subject one week, and then let his decision be known.

At the close of the week, he decided "to be a farmer," to the joy of his father. From that day onward, he has pursued steadily his course—is now pleasantly situated on a comfortable farm, and is proud, at home and abroad, to be known as a farmer.

LIME IN PLANTING TREES.

Many object to planting trees either for ornament or use, in consequence of the numerous failures they experience. This, however, it should be recollected, is not a

necessary result. With proper care there is no more difficulty in transplanting than in planting and propagating from the seed or germ. In setting trees, we have ever found that they do best when taken up in the fall, about the time the leaves drop. Fruit and forest trees, shrubs and perennial plants of all descriptions, may, at this season, be removed with perfect success. In setting, we usually put a small quantity of lime in the hole—about half a peck to a tree, mixing it thoroughly with the mould, in order that it may be easily accessible to the roots, which ramify in every direction in quest of food. An English publication says that an extensive plantation of trees has been formed within a few years, without the loss of a single tree, and this has been effected simply by putting a small quantity of lime in the hole before depositing the tree. Four bushels are said to be amply sufficient for an acre. The effect of the lime is "to push on the growth of the plant in the first precarious state." There seems to have existed, at first, an apprehension that liming the plant would force it on prematurely, but this apprehension experience has demonstrated to have been perfectly groundless.

MANAGEMENT OF HOTBEDS.

The prevalent opinion among farmers respecting *hotbeds*, is, that they are expensive articles, requiring the skill of professed gardeners to manage them, and almost entirely outside the range of farming economy. Both suppositions are decidedly erroneous, and we hope that every one who reads this will arrive at such a conclusion. We do not propose that every farmer should go into the regular routine of forcing vegetables at extraordinary seasons; but that every one, however humble his circumstances may be, should, at least, have one hotbed to forward such plants as he may want to cultivate in his garden, and which he has either to purchase from gardeners—and then get poor, badly grown things—or else wait for the regular process of open garden culture, which, in

our climate, under the most favorable circumstances, will not allow him the taste of a vegetable until the summer is half gone. We are surprised to see farmers come to the city and purchase a dozen of poor, weak withered cabbage, tomato, or celery plants, when they might have raised an abundance at home, far superior, and in better season.

The value of culinary vegetables, as we have often said, is not at all appreciated by those who, of all others, ought to appreciate it—the professed cultivators of the soil. No effort, worth speaking of, is bestowed upon them, as a general thing. We have seen what is called the gardens of some of the best field farmers in this county, produce little else but *weeds*, at a season when they should have been teeming with all the variety of healthy, nutritious vegetables. Let us urge upon them, for their own sakes, and for the credit of our agriculture generally, the importance of a reform in this regard. In the midst of the improvements of the day, the vegetable garden, that may contribute so largely to the health and comfort of every family, should surely not be neglected.—Let it participate, largely and fully, in the improvement, and it will yield ample compensation. This is the season to make preparations while there is leisure.

A simple hotbed for forwarding plants, such as cabbage, tomato, celery, brocoli, cauliflower, egg-plant, pepper, melons, cucumbers, &c., may be constructed by any man having but ordinary ingenuity. The size may be adapted to circumstances.—For raising such plants as we have mentioned, a frame of about twelve feet long and six wide, which will allow of three sashes, each three feet wide, will be found large enough for any family. It should be made of common two inch plank—the back about three feet high, the front about half that, the ends having a regular slope from back to front. This will give an angle sufficient to throw off rain, and give the full benefit of external heat and light to the plants within. If the beds are narrow the front must be higher in proportion. The sides and ends are simply nailed to a strong post, four inches square,

or more, placed in each corner. For the sashes to rest and slide upon, a strip six inches wide is placed across the frame, the ends mortised or sunk in the sides of the frame, so as not to cause a projection. The sashes are made in the ordinary way, but without cross bars; and in glazing, the lights are made to overlap an eighth or quarter of an inch, to exclude the rain. Such a frame, costing a mere trifle beyond the labor, will last for years. Where so large a frame as the dimensions here given, may not be wanted, an old window may be used for sash, and all expense of glazing be avoided.

Hotbeds should occupy a dry situation, where they will not be affected by the lodgement of water during rains or thaws. They should be exposed to the east and south, and protected by fences or buildings from the north and north-west.

Where it is intended merely to grow plants for transplanting to the garden, they may be sunk in the ground to the depth of eighteen inches, and will in such a case require not more than two feet deep of manure; but when forcing and perfecting vegetables, a permanent heat must be kept up, and the bed must be made on the surface, so that fresh and warm manure may be added when necessary. A depth of three to four feet of manure will in such cases be wanted.—Manure for hotbeds should go through a regular process of preparation. It should be fresh stable manure, placed in a heap, and turned and mixed several times, promoting a regular fermentation; thus it is made to retain its heat a long time, otherwise it would burn and dry up, and become useless.

Those who wish to force cucumbers, radishes, salad, &c., should begin, if the weather be favorable, about the latter end of February. For raising plants it is time enough to begin in March. In forcing cucumbers, Bridgeman says:

“The substance of dung from the bottom of the bed should be three to four feet, according to the season of planting, and the mould should be laid on as soon as the bed is settled, and has a lively, regular tempered heat. Lay the earth even-

ly over the dung, about six inches deep; after it has lain a few days examine it, and if no traces of a burning effect are discovered, by the mould turning of a whitish color and caking, it will be fit to receive the plants, but if the earth appears burned, or has a rank smell, some fresh sweet mould should be provided for the hills, and placed in the frame to get warm; at the same time vacancies should be made to give vent to the steam, by running down stakes.

"After the situation of the bed has been ascertained and the heat regulated, the hole should be closed and the earth formed into hills; raise one hill in the centre under each sash, so that the earth is brought to within nine inches of the glass; in these hills plant three seedlings, or turn out such as may be in pots with the balls of earth about their roots, and thus insert one patch of three plants in the middle of each hill. The plants should be immediately watered with water heated to the temperature of the bed, and kept shaded till they have taken root.

"The temperature should be kept up to sixty degrees, and may rise to eighty degrees without injury, provided the rank steam be allowed to pass off; therefore, as the heat begins to decline, timely linings of well prepared dung must be applied all round the frame. Begin by lining the back part first; cut away the old dung perpendicularly to the frame, and form a bank two feet broad, to the height of a foot, against the back of the frames; as it sinks, add more; renew the linings round the remainder of the bed as it becomes necessary, and be careful to let off the steam, and give air to the plants at all opportunities.

"Give necessary waterings, mostly in the morning of a mild day, in early forcing; and in the afternoon, in the advanced season of hot sunny weather. Some use water impregnated with sheep or pigeon dung. As the roots begin to spread, and the vines to run, the hills should be enlarged by gathering up the earth around them, for which purpose a supply of good mould should be kept ready at hand, to be used as required.

"When the plants have made one or two joints, stop them, by pinching off the tops, after which they generally put forth two shoots, each of which let run till they have made one or two clear joints, and then stop them also; and afterward continue throughout the season to stop at every joint; this will strengthen the plants, and promote their perfecting the fruit early."

Radishes, lettuce, &c., may be forced in beds similar to that described for cucumbers, and the earth in the dung bed should be a foot deep. They do not require so much heat. The plants require to be well thinned out, air to be regularly admitted, and water gently and regularly supplied. In admitting air to hotbeds, a mat should be thrown over the opening to prevent the plants from being chilled.

Earth for hotbed plants should, in all cases, be good rich friable loam, mixed with a third of well rotted manure, and some coarse sand to make it porous.

Chicopee Telegraph.

LABOR-SAVING SOAP.

To make it, take two pounds of sal. soda, two pounds of yellow bar soap, two quarts of water, or in like proportion.—Cut the soap in thin slices, and boil together two hours, and then strain through a cloth into a tight box or tub; let it cool and it is fit for use. Do not let it freeze.

To use it: put the clothes in soak the night before you wash. The next morning put the water into your kettle or boiler. To every two pails of water, add about one pound of the soap. As soon as the water with its dissolved soap boils, wring out the clothes from the water in which they had been at soak during the night, and put them into the boiler, without any rubbing. Let them boil one hour, then suds and rinse them, and they will be clean and white. They will need no rubbing, except a little on such places as are soiled, and for that no washboard will be required. The clothes should be rinsed in two waters.

Colored and woollen clothes must not be boiled as above, but may be washed in the suds weakened in water. The clothes will last longer by the use of this soap, and much labor will be saved.

Six pounds of sal. soda, six pounds of bar soap, and thirty quarts of water, will make about fifty pounds of the soap.—The soda costs about eight cents a pound, and the bar soap eight cents per pound.

A pint measure will hold a pound of the labor-saving soap. This will save the trouble of weighing every time.—*Emigrant's Hand Book.*

For the Southern Planter.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Editor,—Your editorial on the subject of communications I am fearful will exclude many from your columns. The theories of young men fresh from college are rejected; the communications of those who make but "one barrel of corn, whose land is deteriorating, whose stock is starving, whilst his crop is growing small by degrees and beautifully less," are also rejected. Now, I fear if such be your rule, that you will have but very few communications, from Old Virginia at least.—How few are the farmers in Virginia whose lands are either deteriorating, or whose cattle are not in a starving condition at least half the year. But my greatest fear is that the communications of those who will be acceptable to you must be few and far between; not because still there are not enough such men in Virginia, but because it is very difficult to induce them to write, and because they have less egotism than the bragging theorists with empty corn cribs. They are afraid that what they have to say is nothing new nor worth knowing; if so, they certainly ought to be willing for the Editor to put them into the fire; or they fear that their language may not be fit for the press. This is the great bugbear. They should be encouraged to believe what all writers know, that the more they write the better they will write, and that their brother farmers are plain people and

value the matter and not the manner of their communications. Now I would advise not to discourage our young brothers with their new theories, nor the old farmers who have heretofore worked wrong, but are at last willing to work right, (for they have had a fair opportunity to profit by past experience,) but to receive all, (post paid,) allowing to the Editor the privilege, without giving offence, of throwing all unprofitable communications in the fire. The Editor must be our judge as to what will make his paper useful. An agricultural paper must be poor if not well filled with useful practical information for the farming community. I for one shall be willing *cheerfully* to abide by the Editor's decisions.

Sir, your motto, "Tillage and pasturage are the two breasts of the State," pleases me well. But tillage and pasturage as practised in lower Virginia seems to me to be incompatible; for what kind of pasturage can we have in lower Virginia, where the whole of the arable land is under tillage once in two or three years. It requires a hundred acres of such land to sustain twenty cattle during the summer months.

My main object in writing now is to give some notions of mine, in my own way, part theory and part practice on the subject of neat cattle. I found some two years since, that my farm as also my tobacco lots were becoming poorer and that it required a considerable addition of new land to fill the cribs and barns; and that the number of my cattle was diminishing, that I did not raise calves through the winter to supply the loss to my number from beef killed and poverty, from old age, &c., I had to purchase a yoke of oxen occasionally, and now and then a few cows to afford milk for the use of my family. My determination was to purchase a few more cattle, and by care to endeavor to increase my stock. My calves were permitted to run with their dams during the day throughout the summer and separated from them at night and they were deprived of the whole of the milk in the morning, which afforded a sufficiency for family use. In the fall

they were weaned and put into a good field, for young cattle can't bear confinement. Upon this method I increased my stock rapidly, and I have since been enabled to enlarge my tobacco lots, and so far improve them as to yield twenty bushels of wheat per acre. My experiment thus far has not been a full one, but this year I have more milk and butter, larger calves, and instead of purchasing, have been enabled to sell three yokes of oxen, and to part with eight or ten head of cattle besides. The only extra effort to sustain more cattle has been to mow ten stacks of coarse hay as winter food. Thus much for the practice, and now for the theory.

The proposition which I wish to maintain is, that it would be well for us to raise more cattle and keep them better than we now do, even if it should require a third of the labor on the farmer to provide for their support. I know, sir, that it will be said, how can we keep more cattle well when we do all we can to maintain what few we have, and then lose a good number? I would ask such persons in kindness to tell me what labor they perform to keep their cattle during the winter? They put away their shucks and sometimes stack their wheat straw and throw to their stock twice a day.— This is nearly all the labor they perform during the year. The people in the best farming countries work more for the keeping their stock than for their families.— The keeping of neat cattle in Virginia cost less in proportion to their value than any other species of animals. The horse, unless he be a valuable one, consumes in the year more than he would sell for; the hog generally cost more than would buy the same amount of pork; but the cow fed upon the coarsest food, shucks, siraw, &c., and frequently denied after the most affectionate importunity a single short ear of corn, affords us milk, and butter, certainly one of the most indispensable blessings at our tables; good beef, leather and candles, good work oxen, and last, though not least, a good supply of valuable manure. This last article alone remunerates us tenfold for the labor and expense ordi-

narily bestowed upon our cattle. Now, let us increase our provender, both in quantity and quality, and we shall soon perceive a corresponding increase, both in quantity and quality, of the manure for it is a well-established fact that rich food makes rich manure. Can any one suppose that this extra attention to cattle can from any possible cause diminish the products of the farm, since animal manures are known to be absolutely essential in the production of all kinds of crops, and particularly the grain crop? You had as well tell me that manure impoverishes land, as to say that feeding cattle well will lessen the products of a farm. But the same difficulty presents itself. How are so many cattle to be fed in our present situation. In reply I would say, if you will do no more for your cattle, be sure to make meadow, if you have none, and mow a great quantity of all kinds of coarse grass and weeds for winter food; and instead of going into the woods for leaves and pine tags to make manure, take your scythes and mow the bottoms and creek or branch sides and all wet places for all kinds of hay, and whilst you obtain an infinitely better manure you provide food for your cattle. But do I dare to recommend the foreign and Yankee notion of root crops for cattle? I answer in the affirmative. What but the introduction of the turnip crop constitutes the great era of agricultural improvement in England? Where is the man in the Northern States who has fallen out with the root-crop?

Does it not appear to be a matter worthy of inquiry by gentlemen farmers, why in the old countries an acre of grass land should rent for a higher price than the same of arable land? Would they not shrewdly suspect that the nett profits of the acre in grass may be greater than the acre in a clean crop? Should we not be led further to inquire, what use could possibly be made of the product of a grass lot to make it more profitable than that of an arable lot? Can it be that an acre of grass, fed to an ox or cow, should add more to the income of the farm than an acre of good wheat at nine shillings per

bushel, and the straw besides? By paying attention to the practice of others, and endeavoring to make further inquiries into the subject, we may perhaps see more reason in the thing than at first view.

Let us first search diligently for other means of improving the soil without the aid of farm stock, and see if we can enrich our lands with any thing like *immediate* profit; which immediate profit seems in this country to be the only means to induce us to make an effort. Shall we haul at great expense lime and plaster, and sow down green crops to be ploughed in? Upon this plan some lands are improved; others not at all. The lime has imparted to the soil some properties highly necessary in the production of certain crops. We next try deep and subsoil ploughing (which we consider a valuable adjunct) with some profit, whilst the land has some strength; but without animal manure that won't do. We then try the four-field rotation, and now the grazing system. All these, with many other schemes, have been tried, and if not abandoned, have brought us to the conclusion that it is next to impossible to improve the soil of middle and lower Virginia.

Now let me ask, can any other system, not *notoriously* wrong, be worse than our present unsuccessful management? You certainly will advocate "tillage and pasturage, the two breasts of the State."—You can't with them disjoined make an amazon of it? You must abandon your motto or strongly advocate them as inseparably united. Our system is tillage, altogether without pasturage or cattle feeding, unless you call our barren wastes pasturage.

The plan of tillage without pasturage has been pursued by us from our first settlement, that we might derive more immediate profit, which could not have been objectionable in the first settlement of this country. The large profits which our fathers obtained then have tempted us to pursue it so far that it has become a fixed habit with us, we cannot see what can be the difference between our times and theirs. We are informed that the French people under the union of tillage and pas-

turage had improved their lands to such a state that they would yield forty or fifty bushels of wheat to the acre. The high price of wheat induced them to reduce their pasturage and stock and increase the number of acres in wheat. They pursued it for a while, when to their astonishment, double the acres of land produced less wheat for the consumption of the nation. Do you perceive the reason? They had no cattle to sustain the fertility of the soil. They by this course diminished the products of the soil whilst they at the same time deprived themselves of the profits, of various sorts, from the cattle.

But, sir, is the increase and improvement of neat cattle entirely devoid of this all-important requisite, immediate profit? Suppose we double the number of our cattle, and by only a small addition of labor quadruple our supply of food for them. Is it nothing towards immediate profit to carry out three times the quantity of manure? And as manure increases manure almost in a geometrical progression, will it not make more tobacco, more wheat, and more straw, if you like for cattle food, will we not also be enabled to mow a larger supply of clover hay for their support? We see that at once the two great staples of our State are increased. Is it nothing that we have, not double the milk and butter, but four times as much for market? that we have a great many more beeves for market?—more leather and ten times the tallow? Is it nothing that we have more work oxen on our farms and more for sale?

Mr. Webster says in his address before the Agricultural Society of Massachusetts, "It is of the highest importance that our farmers should increase their *power* of sustaining live stock, that they may therefrom obtain the means of improving their farms."

But, sir, one important consideration in the adoption of such a change as I have proposed is, that it requires less labor to keep up a farm, particularly if the tobacco crop be diminished. Robert H. Walker, late a highly valuable contributor to the Farmers' Register, adopted such a system and asserts that with one-fourth the labor

be realized greater profits than under his old plan.

Now, sir, the time is fast rolling around when the slaves, or a greater portion of them, will have been carried to the South, and when we shall be obliged, under our present management, to go with them, would it not be better to change our system, whilst we have the labor to put it into operation and hold on to our old State, than to persist in our present land killing until we shall be too late, and be forced to sacrifice our patriotism to dire necessity, and leave the places of our nativity, almost as dear to a true patriot as life itself.

Has it not become an important matter of State policy to make some radical change in our agriculture? In viewing the plan proposed above, if we include the root crop, I can see no difference between this and the system pursued in all the best cultivated parts of the world—why then should it be wrong in us to adopt it generally?

R.

March 25, 1847.

MODE OF PURIFYING WATER.

It is not so generally known as it ought to be, that pounded alum possesses the property of purifying water. A table-spoonful of pulverized alum, sprinkled into a hogshead of water, (the water stirred round at the time,) will, after the lapse of a few hours, by precipitating to the bottom the impure particles, so purify it that it will be found to possess nearly all the freshness and clearness of the finest spring water. A pailful, containing four gallons, may be purified by a single tea-spoonful.

From the Albany Cultivator.

DEAD ANIMALS.

At all seasons of the year dead animals are to be seen hung upon fences and trees; and especially is this the case in the spring. On every farm where sheep

are kept, dead lambs are suspended in the beautiful, blooming and fruit-bearing orchards—how shocking?—to annoy the sight and smell, and waste the farmer's means. Dogs and cats, too, are frequently hoisted in view in the same annoying and disgusting manner. If horses, cattle, sheep or hogs die, they are drawn out of sight, but not out of smell, and are still sources of disgust. Why is all this? If the farmer be so unfortunate or so negligent as to lose an animal, should he be so wasteful as to permit the carcass to decay uselessly in the open air, to the great annoyance of his family and every passer-by? Does he not know that animal matter is the best and richest of manure? Animal matter contains every element that is necessary to grow every plant known. In it are phosphate and carbonate of lime, ammonia, carbon: in short, in the best form, all the essentials of vegetable growth. Its nutritive power is great, and if added to the compost heap, hastens fermentation, and adds greatly to the richness.

Whenever a fowl, cat, dog, sheep, pig, horse or cow dies, let the carcass be cut up, and the bones broken, and the whole added to the manure heap. The carcass of a single horse will turn loads of useless muck or peat into manure, richer than any ordinary barn yard dung. Why, then, suffer it to decay uselessly and annoyingly? It is true it is not lost, for the gases that taint the air are appropriated by plants; but the farmer who owned the animal, gets but a small portion of what should be all his own, why then will he waste the dead energies of the horse, when he has lost the living ones?

If our readers will heed what we say they will not suffer dead animals to annoy the eye, and disgust the nose hereafter. Bury them in the manure heap; add some lime to quicken the decay, and charcoal dust or plaster to absorb the gases, and much will be gained to the good appearance of the farm, the quality of the manure, and the quantity of the crops grown, and much to the purse of the farmer. If your neighbor be so improvident as to waste a dead animal, beg it of

him, that it may not be detrimental to health, and useless to vegetation. Laws should be passed to compel the saving and use of the most powerful of fertilizers, when common sense and decency fail to do it.

Whenever it is desirable to hasten decay, and rapidly turn animal matter into manure, sulphuric acid may be used.— This would be too expensive (though the acid is cheap) for farm purposes, but may be employed for the garden, where expense is not so important. It is frequently desirable to have a rich manure in the garden, and it is not at hand. Animal matter put into sulphuric acid will in a few hours furnish it. Every house will supply much refuse animal matter. To this rats, mice, moles, feathers, hair, bones, horns, &c., may be added. If the garbage of a slaughter house can be got, it should be. All these will soon be reduced to an available state, be inoffensive, and will add great fertility to the soil where used. The requisite quantity of acid may be ascertained by experiment—about ten or fifteen pounds is usually allowed for one hundred pounds of animal matter.

WOOL GROWERS' CONVENTION.

We have before advanced the opinion, that wool growing is to become the chief business of the farmers in Middle and Western Virginia, and in those portions of Ohio and Tennessee which border upon us. The natural advantages of these portions of the country for sheep raising and the production of the best wool are so great as to leave no doubt on our mind that this is to become their staple. The climate is the very best for the fine short wool, while the soil and grass is equal to that of any country. Every one knows that the nature of the food on which sheep live changes the character of their wool with great rapidity, and, as might be expected, there is a marked difference between the wool grown on the coarse, strong grasses of an Iowa or an Arkansas prairie and that feed from the soft, sweet, juicy herbage with which the beautiful hills and meadows of this region are clothed.

Throughout the United States, indeed, there is an abundance of fine hill country; but there is none superior, if equal, to that which lies upon both sides of the Alleghanies in Virginia. Particularly on their west base do the rich calcareous ridges and valleys stretch themselves far into the surrounding States, abundantly irrigated with beautiful and perennial streams, and covered with the most delicious native grasses. All things combine to render it the finest wool growing country on the globe, and we hope the adoption of judicious measures will soon make it such.

But although the wool grown in this section of country has been considered by the manufacturers of England and America as equal to any in the world, and although the very best cloth is manufactured from it, it seems that it has never commanded a good price in the New England market—at least not a good price in proportion to that of the cloths made from it. Indeed this is a common complaint throughout the United States. A Convention of Wool Growers was held during last month to consider the causes of this matter and to devise means and ways for getting the full value of their wool. It met at Steubenville, Ohio, and much interesting matter appears in its report. One principal cause of the present low condition of the wool market appears to be the arts and practices of the wool buyers. That these people make an undue profit upon their business is a "fixed fact," a thing about which there can be no manner of doubt. A proof of it may be seen in the enormous dividends which the various manufactories announce. The farmers themselves have something to do with the establishment of the low prices. When they get a little wool in the beginning of the season, it is common to wrap it in a blanket and carry it to the nearest little country town, where they are at the mercy of one or two speculators, who generally combine, and get for twenty-five cents what should sell for fifty. By the example of one, others are induced to sell small quantities in the same way and at the same rate; and thus a low price is established in the beginning of the season, which affects the market through the residue of the year. But the chief cause of

the miserable recompense received by the wool growers is in the arts resorted to by wool buyers, factory-men, and their agents, (the "wool shirks,") for the manufacture of low prices. In the able report read by Mr. John Brown to the Convention, it is said that one of their most common plans is to get several leading proprietors to sell their wool at a certain inadequate price by giving them twenty times its worth for some other thing. Men are like sheep; and when one prominent man has sold his fleeces for a low price, all the neighborhood follow like their own flocks after the bell wether. And whenever these people get any one, either through ignorance, bribery, or pecuniary necessity to sell at a sacrifice, they take care to have the sale trumpeted through the press, in order to let persons who demand the value of their wool see how entirely above the market they are. Being particularly conscientious, too, about giving their full merit to all these parcels of wool in such publications, this machine, says the report, "works well."

In the beginning of every season they endeavor to get up a great many reports, and a great deal of correspondence backward and forwards about the probable range of prices for the coming clip; "in order that by telling what one has said and another has written, to get the talk started on the flat key, and in that way not to *break ground too high*. For this most happy expression, (breaking ground,) we are wholly indebted to the manufacturers.—This is the great engine in use principally at head quarters or Boston." By the time that these reports get pretty well diffused among the farmers and the expectation of a low season sufficiently established, they send out some 'cute agents, who are then able to get enough sacrifices to put the market in a safe state for the remainder of the season.

But another cause to which our want of a good wool market is very justly attributed, is the slovenly and disgraceful manner in which most of our farmers wash and prepare their wool. If it was neatly and cleanly put up, we would have foreigners in the market, and not be left at the mercy of companies at home. But how can the best wool be expected to sell

when it wears the shabby and dirty appearance which most of ours does? The following remarks are so sensible and so much to the point that we will give them entire:

The best mode of preparing wool for market, is as follows: Before washing, remove carefully with the shears all locks containing dung in a hardened state; then wet the sheep in every part, and let them stand crowded together for an hour or two. They should be taken out of the water, when first put in for wetting, as quickly as may be after the wool is fairly wet in order to retain a soapy substance the wool contains, which acts upon the dirt and gum in the wool, while sheep stand together before washing. This soapy substance is the first thing to escape, as washing is commonly done.—The best mode of washing is to use a fall of three feet or over, turning the sheep in different ways under the fall, till the action of the water brings every part of the fleece to an almost snowy whiteness. A much less fall will answer well if the sheet of water is eight or ten inches deep. If the water under the fall is not deep enough to remain clear while the sheep are in, a plank bottom should be provided to prevent any sand or earthy substance from getting into the wool by stirring up the water. A clean rock bottom is just as good. Where a fall cannot be had, a clear running stream should be found, and the dirt worked perfectly from all parts of the fleece, with the hands, after first soaking the sheep as before. To wash sheep immediately after a soaking rain, will answer very well instead of wetting as above. The sheep when washed, should be driven to a clean grassy field, free from bare spots of earth, avoiding muddy or dusty roads after washing. The shearing should be done as soon after washing as the wool is dry, which will be in two or three days. When confined for shearing, the flock should be kept well littered, and the floors or tables, or whatever place they may be sheared upon, should be kept thoroughly cleaned. The fleeces must be kept whole by the shearers, or they (the shearers) are wholly unfit for

their business. After the fleeces are taken off, they should be placed on a smooth, clean floor or table, with the outer ends upward, and be carefully examined all over by patting with the hands to find every *bur*, which should be taken out *without fail*. The fleece should then be rolled up snugly, and tied with a small twine. If farmers would not suffer a bur-bearing plant to live in their sight, it would be vastly better, and would cost but little yearly. Of this we speak from experience. A disregard of these little things, the whole cost of which is but a trifle in addition to the ordinary expense of putting up wool, is the greatest hindrance to the sale of American wools in England or France, and our farmers have generally no idea of the injury they suffer by a neglect of these matters, and the shameful, dishonest practice of tying up their fleeces with ten and even twenty feet of small rope, or with strips of bark two or three inches wide, instead of two or three feet of small twine—wrapping up coarse and unwashed wool inside of some of the finest fleeces, putting in dung-balls, dirty sweepings of barn floors, doing up their fleeces wet, &c., so that they often mould. The laws of England are said to make such things a penal offence. Would our farmers put their wool in such a condition yearly as some now do, and as a good farmer would be proud of doing with his wheat, pork, butter, &c., we should soon have enough of English and French competitors in our wool market, which would do much more for the trade than any protective measures we can ever hope for. Our slovenly, dishonest habits, deprive us of foreign competition, and leave us entirely at the mercy of our large manufacturing companies, "bodies without souls." The qualities of American wool are such as to overcome, in some small measure all the disadvantages under which they must be sold in a foreign market, and for want of reputation small shipments of American wool, have been made the past season, with a small profit to the shipper. Every pound that we can export, not only brings so much money into the country, but improves the

market at home. Some very judicious wool dealers recommend keeping out of the fleeces, the fribs or small scattering locks, but we are on the whole disposed to advise, that all *clean locks* or fribs be put within the fleece to which they properly belong—it appearing to us to be more properly the business of the wool sorter or grader, to separate them from the fleeces than of the farmer, who in many instances, is under no advantages for using them, or of disposing of them for their value. We do not think the remarks of English wool brokers in reference to fribs are applicable to farmers. At any rate, this has been our uniform practice, and we have yet to hear the first word of complaint about the condition of our wool, in this particular, either in this country or England. The wool put up in first rate order, and stored away in a clean, secure place, the next thing is for the holder to become informed in regard to its value. This he may generally do through some disinterested source if he will not be in too great a hurry, which, by the way, is all wrong, as the throwing off such an immense quantity upon the market at once, has the most certain effect to reduce the price, since money is not to be had to buy all the wools of the country at once, unless they are sold so low as to give the profits of the business to others than the growers. If the wool is to be sold at home the grower need have no anxiety about losing a sale, by letting it lie awhile, or by letting wool buyers go away two or three times without it.

To remedy the grievances complained of, the Convention of Wool Growers propose a scheme, concerning the feasibility of which we do not feel altogether decided. It is to establish a wool depot, by means of which the growers may avoid the necessity of pressing their wool into market when it is glutted, and where it may be preserved until the manufacturers at home are willing to pay a proper price, or until purchasers from abroad can reach it. But as the farmers wish generally to obtain immediate supplies of money, cash advances for their wool, it is absolutely necessary to have a large permanent fund at the

command of those to whom it is consigned. And the business of wool growing is now so extensive that to exercise a controlling effect upon the trade, this fund must amount to at least \$1,000,000. However, as we have not yet considered the subject enough to speak determinately upon this project of the Convention, we will content ourselves with giving its preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, it has been most satisfactorily ascertained by the wool growers of Western Pennsylvania, North Western Virginia, and Eastern Ohio, in a very general Convention, assembled in Steubenville, Ohio, February 10th, 1847, that the medium and fine wool growers in this section of the United States, is regarded by the woollen manufacturers of the United States and in England, as fully equal in quality to any wool grown in any country in the world; and, whereas, it has not commanded the price in the New England market, nor in any American market usually given for European wool of the same quality, nor at all, in any due proportion to the prices, for which the cloths manufactured out of it are sold, by the manufacturers: and, whereas, in fixing the prices of the different grades of wool, according to their quality and constitution, there is not a just and reasonable discrimination made: and, whereas, the consequences of this state of things are such as not to compensate the wool growers, therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That it be deeply impressed on all wool growers, that it is a matter, not only of justice and honesty to the manufacturer, but of vital importance to the wool grower himself, that his wool be thoroughly washed and cleansed from every sort of impurity, and foreign material whatever, in order to secure a good market.

2. *Resolved*, That it would be of essential advantage to the wool growers of the West, that in order to have their wool fitted for any market, a committee be appointed in every county represented in this Convention, to have sub-committees appointed in every township, or wool producing district; said committees to urge

upon their fellow wool growers, generally, the necessity of having their wool so well cleansed and prepared for market as to entitle it to that character which its qualities so richly merit.

3. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as it is asserted by manufacturers that the supply of wool exceeds the demand in the United States, in consequence of which, there is a surplus in the market, it is of the utmost importance that a committee be appointed to ascertain the best foreign market for that surplus.

4. *Resolved*, That it would be of much advantage to wool growers to have a Western and an Eastern depot, to which to send their wool for sale or on commission.

5. *Resolved*, That the Eastern depot contemplated in the above resolution, be established at Springfield, Massachusetts; and that the Western depot contemplated in the same resolution be established at Wheeling, Virginia.

6. *Resolved*, That the house of Perkins & Brown be recommended to wool growers as the depot contemplated at Springfield, Massachusetts.

7. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the Western depot at Wheeling, and to have the power of selecting or appointing the agent or agents to take said depot in charge.

8. *Resolved*, That it would be desirable to have woollen manufactures established on the Western rivers, and that it would be to our interest to encourage those that are erected, and to favor the erection of new ones.

Committee to Ascertain the Best Foreign Market.—Samuel M'Farland, Washington county, Pennsylvania; William H. Ladd, Jefferson county, Ohio; John Brown, Akron, Summit county, Ohio, or Springfield, Massachusetts; Alexander Campbell, Bethany, Va.; Dr. Chaplin, Wheeling, Virginia.

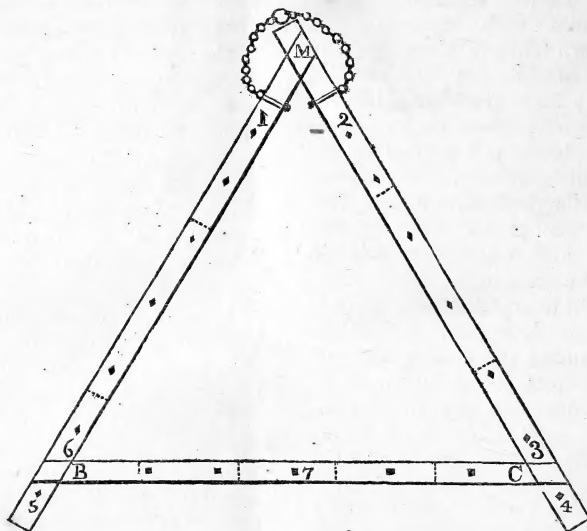
Committee to Superintend the Establishment of the Western Depot at Wheeling, Virginia.—Isaac Mitchell, John J. Jacobs, H. W. Chaplin, Wheeling, Virginia.

OXEN.

A correspondent writes us: "I have no difficulty in breaking oxen. I pair them at two or three years old, before they become obstinate, and when two men can manage them.

I then put them in a cart with two old yoke, work them awhile, turn them out, and take them up now and then. When worked in this way, they never forget it, and you have no further trouble with them."

HARROW.



This harrow is very durable when made of good timber, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness, and will do good service in any kind of land. It is intended to carry nineteen teeth, as will be seen by reference to the engraving. The two long pieces should be seven feet three inches, and the cross piece five feet seven and a half inches. The two mortises where the cross piece joins the long timbers should be nine inches from their end. Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, in the engraving, show where the six first teeth are to be placed. By dividing the space between 1 and 6 into four equal distances, you will have the places for the rest of the teeth on that side, and by doing the same between 2 and 3, you will have the places for those on the other. Then get the centre between B and C for tooth No. 7, and divide the spaces between B and 7, and C and 7 into two

equal distances each, and you have the places for all the teeth on the cross timber. Have the chain put on as shown in the drawing, with the ring in the centre. By hitching a harrow in this way, it will run perfectly level, and thereby enable all its parts to do equal work. Put on eight bands where the division marks are seen in the engraving, to prevent the possibility of splitting.

Mr. Editor,—Above I send you a drawing of a harrow which I have used since 1839, and which I think an excellent planned one,—being very simple, cheap and durable. I should have sent it to you long before now, had I not thought it would have been presumption on my part to suggest the use of such an implement to the farmers who read your paper. But I have travelled over

the greater part of Virginia within the last year or so, and have been astonished to see the miserable makeshifts that are used by our farmers. Many of them converse very fluently upon any thing relating to agriculture, but in many, (yes, very,) many instances, if you happen to get a peep into their barn yards, you will see at a glance that they are not prepared to carry any of their suggestions into execution. Is it not distressing to know that so many farmers in Virginia continue to struggle year after year with such miserable *ploughs* and *harrows* as they use, killing their horses, wearing the very life out of the poor black man, and doing nothing after all. It is astonishing to see their want of observation and incapacity to learn from experience. They fail, or partially fail, in crop after crop, and invariably attribute it to the season or the land, when nine times out of ten they are themselves principally in fault.

Yours, very respectfully,

ISAAC IRVINE HITE.

Glen Ambler, March 15, 1847.

For the Southern Planter.

THE LAW OF ENCLOSURES.

Mr. Editor,—I rejoice to see that your correspondent, "A Pork Raiser," has commenced, in your February number, a series of essays on the present unjust operation of the Law of Enclosures. If he will continue in this "well doing," and will arouse the *sovereigns* to require a change of this abominable law, he will be entitled to the thanks of every *honest* man.

I will not trespass on the discussion: my object now is to make a suggestion to you and your readers. Let *every* man, who feels an interest in this important subject, keep a PETITION in his pocket, requesting the *next* Legislature to repeal or modify the law; and let him talk to every body about it and get all the signatures he can. He will be astonished to see how many names he can get. Let the petition be in fewest words: it is not

necessary to make an argument to the Legislature: let the matter be discussed in the Legislature. "Now's the day" for this work: next winter, you know, the Civil Code has to be revised, and it may be an auspicious time to attend to this matter.

VERB. SAP. SAT.

March, 1847.

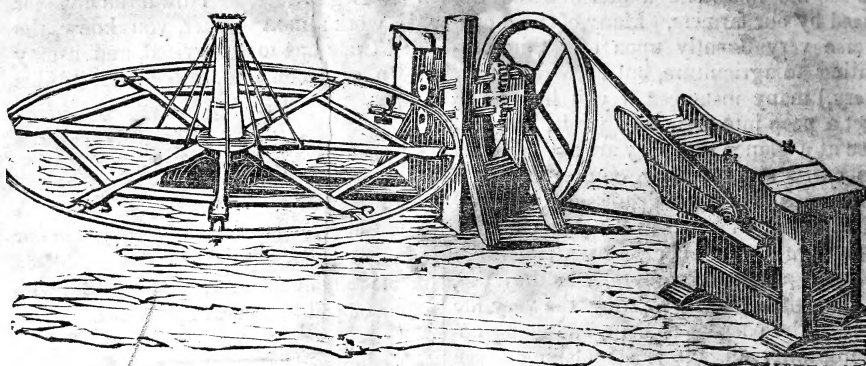
If either our present correspondent, or "A Pork Raiser," who started this subject in our last number, and who has probably considered it more fully than ourselves, will furnish with a form of petition, we will publish it.

M'CORMICK'S REAPING MACHINE.

We take pleasure in announcing to the subscribers to the Southern Planter, that we have again obtained the agency of M'Cormick's Reaping Machine, and that we can now receive and punctually attend to all orders for it. The merits of these machines are too well known to require any remarks upon it from us. They have been used and they have succeeded in every part of the United States. Our exchanges from every quarter speak of them with praise, and we have in our possession certificates from gentlemen, well known to the farmers of Virginia, testifying in the warmest terms to their utility. Among these are Messrs. Corbin Braxton, Alexander Rives, John H. Cocke, Corbin Warwick, J. Watkins, Simpser F. Taylor, Henry Keneagy, H. B. Manafee, Richard Sampson; besides numerous letters and certificates from other States, copies of which may be seen at our office. To the planters of Virginia who have heavy crops and level lands, we have no doubt in pronouncing these machines extremely valuable. Let all who want reapers, write to the "Southern Planter" immediately.

To Subscribers and Postmasters.

All orders for change of office or discontinuance of the paper, must specify the post office to which the paper has been sent.



HAW'S ADHESIVE HORSE-POWER.

The above cut represents Haw's Patent Adhesive Horse-Power, with a Threshing Machine attached, which is constructed by forming a wrought iron rim, from 26 to 28 feet in diameter, in eight parts, which are placed on the outer ends of eight arms, which answer as levers to attach the horses. The arms, or levers, meet in the centre between two cast iron plates, bolted to an upright piece of wood, called a cone, with a dish-formed plate of cast iron on the top, through which the brace rods pass, for the purpose of supporting the levers or arms. The rim is made to project over the ends of the arms, to admit of its passing between two rollers 9 inches in diameter, on the axles of which are placed two small cog-wheels, which gear into each other, thereby communicating the adhesive power on both sides of the rim to the lower axle, on which is placed a band-wheel 6 feet 6 inches in diameter, which propels the whirl on the drum axle, 6 inches in diameter, giving to the drum or thresher 1,200 revolutions per minute. To get the necessary adhesion, a weight is applied to a compound lever, which bears upon the journal of the upper axle. The great excellence of the above described Horse-Power, consists in durability, simplicity of construction, and ease of draught. There is nothing complex about it. Should it get out of order, it can be repaired by common carpenters and blacksmiths of the country. It is portable and can be set up ready for work in less than three hours' time. It has less friction than any other in use, requiring only one-sixth of the power to overcome the friction, whilst the common geared horse-power requires about half.

We will keep a supply of Haw's Improved Spiked Drums or Threshers, at the Plough

Manufactory of Messrs. George Watt & Co., in the City of Richmond, on Franklin Street, just below Mr. Harden's Livery Stable, where orders will be received for us. We also manufacture a very durable and long-tried Horse-Power, called the revolving lever, which may be worked with two horses. Prices range as follows:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Adhesive Horse-Power, No. 1, with 24 inch drum, complete, for four or more horses, | \$200 00 |
| Adhesive Horse-Power, No. 2, with 20 inch drum, complete, for three or more horses, | 170 00 |
| Adhesive Horse-Power, No. 3, with 14 inch drum, complete, for three or more horses, | 140 00 |
| Revolving Lever Horse-Power, 20 inch drum, complete, | 130 00 |
| 30 inch Drum or Thresher, | 75 00 |
| 24 inch Drum or Thresher, | 65 00 |
| 20 inch Drum or Thresher, | 55 00 |
| 14 inch Drum or Thresher, | 45 00 |

One of us will attend in person to setting the Machines to work, free of charge, where the distance does not exceed thirty-five miles from our shop, or from Richmond; over that distance, travelling expenses must be paid. We will deliver Machines in Richmond, or at the Retreat, near New Castle, on the Pamunky River. We wish to sell the patent for that part of the State west of the Blue Ridge and north-west of Fredericksburg. Also the patent for any State in the Union. Terms moderate.

Address Haw & Sydnor, Old Church, Hanover, or at Richmond, Virginia.

EDWARD SYDNOR.
JOHN HAW,

Hanover Co., Va., April 15, 1846.